

T.S.Nandakumar is one of the few teacher-performers who have dedicated themselves to their profession with a missionary zeal and who have blazed to glory too. Perhaps the teacher in him takes precedence over the performer he is. The teacher is a creative artist whose mind vibrates with rhythmic permutations and combinations. Dynamic and versatile, he would try his creative impulse right from the beginner to the senior student and involve them in Laya Vadya Ensembles. Within the framework of Tala Vadya Ensemble he has devised something simple for the kids and very complex formulae for seniors. He leaves no instruments untapped - Mridangam, Ghatam, Kanjira, Morsing, Taval, Dholak, Konnakol - and gears each one of these students in course of time on to different instruments, so as to make him jack of all percussion instruments.* A few however remain predominantly Mridangists. This ensures a place in any capacity for each of his students in a concert.

The Vadya Laya Vrinda, the percussion ensemble has formed and the three cassettes of "Jewels of Rhythm" this group has brought out speak for this dynamic and versatile teacher. And this group is mostly drawn from the teenaged talents.